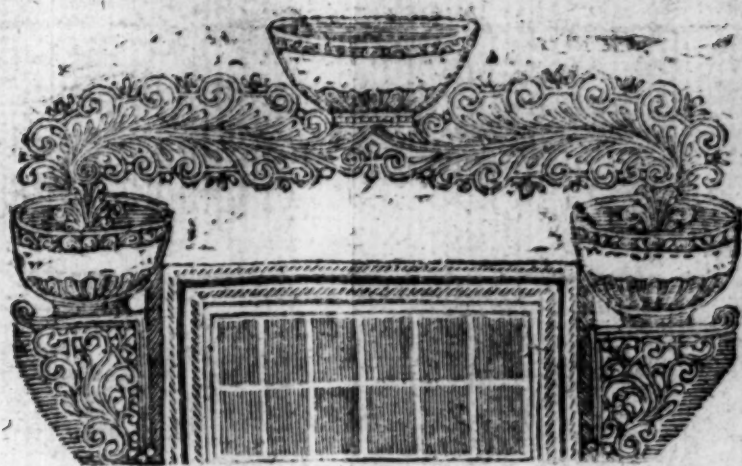




The GREENWICH GARLAND,

Sweet William's Courtship to pretty Nancy; with her answer, wherein she resolves to be constant to him.

Sweet William came to his pretty Nancy,
A Greenwich damsel of beauty bright,
Said he, There's none but you I fancy;
thou art my joy and heart's delight.
For thy promotion, I'll sail the ocean,
to bring thee gold and silver store,
With thee I'll marry, no longer tarry,
till I return to my native shore.

My sweetest jewel, if thou'lt believe me,
thou art the first love that ever I had,
Wherefore I hope that thou'lt believe me,
for thou shalt find me a faithful lad
That's true and loyal, make no denial,
I vow to thee for evermore.
I mean to marry no longer tarry,
but till I return to my native shore.

When first thy beauty I did discover,
like to an arrow it wounded me,
O pity therefore a wounded lover,
that now has fix'd his love on thee:
Then don't deny me, but prithee try me,
who for thy favour does implore,
And we will marry if thou wilt tarry
till I return to my native shore.

Why stand ye silent, my dearest sweetening?
speak, canst thou love me, ay or no?
We ne'er can have a more happy meeting,
e'er I away to the sea do go,
Let this be broken now for a token
that we'll love each other for evermore;
And then we'll marry if thou wilt tarry
but till I come to my native shore.

The damsel then with a sweet behaviour,
she made the sailor this short reply.
I thank you, sir, for your love and favour,
but I dare not venture, no not I.
For should you leave me or once deceive me,
O that would grieve me for evermore,
Fear not, my jewel, I can't be cruel,
but marry when I come to my native shore.

Her heart was tender and soon relented
at every word the sailor spoke;
And when to love she had consented,
a piece of gold 'twixt them he broke,

One half he gave to her, and said, Don't waver
be constant to me for evermore,
And we will marry, no longer tarry
but till I come to my native shore.

Tho' for a season we must be parted,
yet never doubt my fidelity:
I will be faithful and loyal hearted,
whether I travel by land or sea.
No foreign beauty shall quell my duty,
I'll keep my promise for evermore,
With thee I'll marry, no longer tarry
but till I come to my native shore.

I'll search earth's bowels and plow the ocean
for gold and every precious thing,
My love and riches shall be thy portion,
the cargo home to thee I'll bring.
The Indian treasure shall crown with pleasure
my jewel and joy, for evermore,
With thee I'll marry, no longer tarry
but till I come to my native shore.

Farewell my love, I must be going,
my captain calls, I dare not stay,
Our sails are spread the winds are blowing,
with speed we must our anchor weigh.
O cease from weeping my heart is keeping,
I'll live with thee for evermore,
And then we'll marry, no longer tarry
but till I come to my native shore.

PART SECOND.

Nancy's Constancy to her sweet-heart.

While William sailed to foreign nations
thro' foaming waves of the cruel main,
Sweet Nancy waited with constant patience,
his happy wish'd for return again.
In private praying and often saying,
kind heaven to him protection give;
For I'll not leave him, nor once deceive him,
so long as I have an hour to live.

His precious sayings as hidden treasures,
I'll lock up close in this heart of mine,
Where I can feast on them with pleasure,
when in my chamber I am confin'd

May heaven's power bless him each hour,
and to sweet William protection give,
For I'll not leave him nor once deceive him,
as long as I have an hour to live.

Sometimes in bed when I am lying
upon my downy pillow soft,
My melting thoughts are to him flying
when stormy winds do blow aloft;
Instead of sleeping my eyes are weeping,
Morpheus to me no rest can give;
For I'll not leave him nor once deceive him,
so long as I have an hour to live.

I by a taylor's son was courted,
he offered me a chain of gold,
Quoth I, It shall not be reported,
my faith or troth was bought or sold.
Begone you taylor I have a sailor,
to whom I did my promise give,
And I'll not leave him nor once deceive him,
so long as I have an hour to live.

The eyes of heaven have often seen us,
when I and he together spake;
And sure the vows that passed between us
are sacred and must not be broke.
My tongue spoke true and shall never falter,
Sweet William I will not deceive.
I shall not flatter nor ever alter,
so long as I have an hour to live.

Behold when fifteen months and better
his eastern voyage he had pursu'd,
From his kind hand she received a letter,
wherein at large his love was renewed,
He said sweet maiden, I am coming laden,
with riches which I to thee give,
I'll never leave thee nor once deceive thee
so long as I have an hour to live.

The ship at length in the flowing river,
was born aloft with wind and tide;
Farewell, quoth he, to the seas for ever
I will return to my virtuous bride.
For I have treasure, therefore with pleasure
the days of Nancy I mean to crown.
Tho' long they tarried, at length they married,
and live together in Greenwich town.